

01/02/02—Governor Tauese Sunia to Faleomavaega, ASG Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives, Chief Election Officer.

01/28/02—ASG Speaker of the House to Faleomavaega, ASG Governor, Election Office, President of the Senate.

02/27/02—Faleomavaega to ASG Speaker of the House.

03/05/02—Faleomavaega to ASG Senate President and Senators.

05/23/02—Faleomavaega to ASG Governor Sunia, Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives.

07/10/02—ASG President Pro Tem and Speaker of the House to the Honorable James Hansen, Chairman of U.S. House Committee on Resources, ASG Governor Tauese Sunia, Senators, Representatives, Chief Election Officer, the Honorable Nick Rahall (Ranking Member of the U.S. House Committee on Resources), Congressman Eni Faleomavaega, Members of the U.S. House Committee on Resources.

07/11/03—Governor Tauese Sunia to Faleomavaega, Chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Resources, ASG President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives, Chief Election Officer.

07/15/02—Faleomavaega to the Honorable Nick Rahall, Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Resources.

07/15/02—Faleomavaega to the Honorable James Hansen, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Resources.

07/23/02—Faleomavaega to ASG Governor Sunia, Chairman and Ranking Member of the U.S. House Committee on Resources, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, ASG Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives, Chief Election Officer.

07/23/02—Faleomavaega to the Honorable James Hansen, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Resources.

07/23/02—Faleomavaega to the Honorable Nick Rahall, Ranking Member of the U.S. House Committee on Resources.

09/05/02—Faleomavaega to ASG Governor Tauese Sunia.

09/05/02—Faleomavaega to ASG President of the Senate and Senators.

09/05/02—Faleomavaega to ASG Speaker of the House and Representatives.

09/12/02—Faleomavaega Statement before the American Samoa Legislature.

05/07/03—Faleomavaega to ASG Governor Togiola Tulafono, Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives.

09/05/03—Senator Te'o J. Fuavai to Faleomavaega.

09/11/03—ASG Governor Togiola Tulafono to Faleomavaega, ASG Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives.

09/15/03—Faleomavaega to ASG Governor Togiola Tulafono, Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives.

09/19/03—Senate Resolution.

10/16/03—Faleomavaega to Senator Te'o J. Fuavai.

10/27/03—President of ASG Senate, Lutu Fuiafano, to Faleomavaega.

10/28/03—Office of the Governor to Lieutenant Governor, Aitofele T.F. Sunia.

07/21/76—Congressional Record, Providing for an Elective Governor and Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa.

10/03/78—Congressional Record, Providing the Territory of American Samoa with a Nonvoting Delegate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to commend my colleague from American Samoa for his leadership and his advocacy, particularly for those citizens there within his territory and within his district who now will be able to reach out and be part of the election process.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2010, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AGOA ACCELERATION ACT OF 2004

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4103) to extend and modify the trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4103

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) *The African Growth and Opportunity Act (in this section and section 3 referred to as "the Act") has helped to spur economic growth and bolster economic reforms in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and has fostered stronger economic ties between the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and the United States; as a result, exports from the United States to sub-Saharan Africa reached record levels after the enactment of the Act, while exports from sub-Saharan Africa to the United States have increased considerably.*

(2) *The Act's eligibility requirements have reinforced democratic values and the rule of law, and have strengthened adherence to internationally recognized worker rights in eligible sub-Saharan African countries.*

(3) *The Act has helped to bring about substantial increases in foreign investment in sub-Saharan Africa, especially in the textile and apparel sectors, where tens of thousands of new jobs have been created.*

(4) *As a result of the Agreement on Textiles and Apparel of the World Trade Organization, under which quotas maintained by WTO member countries on textile and apparel products end on January 1, 2005, sub-Saharan Africa's textile and apparel industry will be severely challenged by countries whose industries are more developed and have greater capacity, economies of scale, and better infrastructure.*

(5) *The underdeveloped physical and financial infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa continues to discourage investment in the region.*

(6) *Regional integration establishes a foundation on which sub-Saharan African countries can coordinate and pursue policies grounded in African interests and history to achieve sustainable development.*

(7) *Expanded trade because of the Act has improved fundamental economic conditions within*

sub-Saharan Africa. The Act has helped to create jobs in the poorest region of the world, and most sub-Saharan African countries have sought to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Act.

(8) *Agricultural biotechnology holds promise for helping solve global food security and human health crises in Africa and, according to recent studies, has made contributions to the protection of the environment by reducing the application of pesticides, reducing soil erosion, and creating an environment more hospitable to wildlife.*

(9)(A) *One of the greatest challenges facing African countries continues to be the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which has infected as many as one out of every four people in some countries, creating tremendous social, political, and economic costs. African countries need continued United States financial and technical assistance to combat this epidemic.*

(B) *More awareness and involvement by governments are necessary. Countries like Uganda, recognizing the threat of HIV/AIDS, have boldly attacked it through a combination of education, public awareness, enhanced medical infrastructure and resources, and greater access to medical treatment. An effective HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment strategy involves all of these steps.*

(10) *African countries continue to need trade capacity assistance to establish viable economic capacity, a well-grounded rule of law, and efficient government practices.*

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

The Congress supports—

(1) *a continued commitment to increase trade between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa and increase investment in sub-Saharan Africa to the benefit of workers, businesses, and farmers in the United States and in sub-Saharan Africa, including by developing innovative approaches to encourage development and investment in sub-Saharan Africa;*

(2) *a reduction of tariff and nontariff barriers and other obstacles to trade between the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and the United States, with particular emphasis on reducing barriers to trade in emerging sectors of the economy that have the greatest potential for development;*

(3) *development of sub-Saharan Africa's physical and financial infrastructure;*

(4) *international efforts to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, other infectious diseases, and serious public health problems;*

(5) *many of the aims of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), which include—*

(A) *reducing poverty and increasing economic growth;*

(B) *promoting peace, democracy, security, and human rights;*

(C) *promoting African integration by deepening linkages between African countries and by accelerating Africa's economic and political integration into the rest of the world;*

(D) *attracting investment, debt relief, and development assistance;*

(E) *promoting trade and economic diversification;*

(F) *broadening global market access for United States and African exports;*

(G) *improving transparency, good governance, and political accountability;*

(H) *expanding access to social services, education, and health services with a high priority given to addressing HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, other infectious diseases, and other public health problems;*

(I) *promoting the role of women in social and economic development by reinforcing education and training and by assuring their participation in political and economic arenas; and*

(J) *building the capacity of governments in sub-Saharan Africa to set and enforce a legal framework, as well as to enforce the rule of law;*

(6) negotiation of reciprocal trade agreements between the United States and sub-Saharan African countries, with the overall goal of expanding trade across all of sub-Saharan Africa;

(7) the President seeking to negotiate, with interested eligible sub-Saharan African countries, bilateral trade agreements that provide investment opportunities, in accordance with section 2102(b)(3) of the Trade Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3802(b)(3));

(8) efforts by the President to negotiate with the member countries of the Southern African Customs Union in order to provide the opportunity to deepen and make permanent the benefits of the Act while giving the United States access to the markets of these African countries for United States goods and services, by reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers, strengthening intellectual property protection, improving transparency, establishing general dispute settlement mechanisms, and investor-state and state-to-state dispute settlement mechanisms in investment;

(9) a comprehensive and ambitious trade agreement with the Southern African Customs Union, covering all products and sectors, in order to mature the economic relationship between sub-Saharan African countries and the United States and because such an agreement would deepen United States economic and political ties to the region, lend momentum to United States development efforts, encourage greater United States investment, and promote regional integration and economic growth;

(10) regional integration among sub-Saharan African countries and business partnerships between United States and African firms; and

(11) economic diversification in sub-Saharan African countries and expansion of trade beyond textiles and apparel.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON RECIPROCITY AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the preferential market access opportunities for eligible sub-Saharan African countries will be complemented and enhanced if those countries are implementing actively and fully, consistent with any remaining applicable phase-in periods, their obligations under the World Trade Organization, including obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property, the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and the Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures, as well as the other agreements described in section 101(d) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d));

(2) eligible sub-Saharan African countries should participate in and support mutual trade liberalization in ongoing negotiations under the auspices of the World Trade Organization, including by making reciprocal commitments with respect to improving market access for industrial and agricultural goods, and for services, recognizing that such commitments may need to reflect special and differential treatment for developing countries;

(3) some of the most pernicious trade barriers against exports by developing countries are the trade barriers maintained by other developing countries; therefore, eligible sub-Saharan African countries will benefit from the reduction of trade barriers in other developing countries, especially in developing countries that represent some of the greatest potential markets for African goods and services; and

(4) all countries should make sanitary and phytosanitary decisions on the basis of sound science.

SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTERPRETATION OF TEXTILE AND APPAREL PROVISIONS OF AGOA.

It is the sense of the Congress that the executive branch, particularly the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA), the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security, and the

Department of Commerce, should interpret, implement, and enforce the provisions of section 112 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, relating to preferential treatment of textile and apparel articles, broadly in order to expand trade by maximizing opportunities for imports of such articles from eligible sub-Saharan African countries.

SEC. 6. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term “eligible sub-Saharan African country” means an eligible sub-Saharan African country under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

SEC. 7. EXTENSION OF AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.

(a) GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.—

(1) EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—Section 506B of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2466b) is amended by striking “2008” and inserting “2015”.

(2) INPUTS FROM FORMER BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES.—Section 506A of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2466a) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by inserting “or former beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries” after “countries”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—
 (i) by striking “title, the terms” and inserting “title—

“(1) the terms”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) the term ‘former beneficiary sub-Saharan African country’ means a country that, after being designated as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, ceased to be designated as such a country by reason of its entering into a free trade agreement with the United States.”.

(b) APPAREL ARTICLES.—(1) Section 112(b)(1) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(1)) is amended by striking “(including)” and inserting “or both (including)”.

(2) Section 112(b)(3) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721 (b)(3)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “either in the United States or one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries” each place it appears and inserting “in the United States or one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries or former beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, or both”; and

(ii) by striking “subject to the following:” and inserting “whether or not the apparel articles are also made from any of the fabrics, fabric components formed, or components knit-to-shape described in paragraph (1) or (2) (unless the apparel articles are made exclusively from any of the fabrics, fabric components formed, or components knit-to-shape described in paragraph (1) or (2)), subject to the following:”; and
 (B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) LIMITATIONS ON BENEFITS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Preferential treatment under this paragraph shall be extended in the 1-year period beginning October 1, 2003, and in each of the 11 succeeding 1-year periods, to imports of apparel articles in an amount not to exceed the applicable percentage of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the preceding 12-month period for which data are available.

“(ii) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘applicable percentage’ means—

“(I) 4.747 percent for the 1-year period beginning October 1, 2003, increased in each of the 5 succeeding 1-year periods by equal increments, so that for the 1-year period beginning October 1, 2007, the applicable percentage does not exceed 7 percent; and

“(II) for each succeeding 1-year period until September 30, 2015, not to exceed 7 percent.

“(B) SPECIAL RULE FOR LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Preferential treatment under this paragraph shall be extended though September 30, 2007, for apparel articles wholly assembled, or knit-to-shape and wholly assembled, or both, in one or more lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, regardless of the country of origin of the fabric or the yarn used to make such articles, in an amount not to exceed the applicable percentage of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the preceding 12-month period for which data are available.

“(ii) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of the subparagraph, the term ‘applicable percentage’ means—

“(I) 2.3571 percent for the 1-year period beginning October 1, 2003;

“(II) 2.6428 percent for the 1-year period beginning October 1, 2004;

“(III) 2.9285 percent for the 1-year period beginning October 1, 2005; and

“(IV) 1.6071 percent for the 1-year period beginning October 1, 2006.

“(iii) LESSER DEVELOPED BENEFICIARY SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country’ means—

“(I) a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country that had a per capita gross national product of less than \$1,500 in 1998, as measured by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development;

“(II) Botswana; and

“(III) Namibia.”.

(3) Section 112(b)(5)(A) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(5)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Apparel articles that are both cut (or knit-to-shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, to the extent that apparel articles of such fabrics or yarns would be eligible for preferential treatment, without regard to the source of the fabrics or yarns, under Annex 401 to the NAFTA.”.

(c) HANDLOOMED, HANDMADE, FOLKLORE ARTICLES AND ETHNIC PRINTED FABRICS.—Section 112(b)(6) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(6)) is amended to read as follows:

“(6) HANDLOOMED, HANDMADE, FOLKLORE ARTICLES AND ETHNIC PRINTED FABRICS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A handloomed, handmade, folklore article or an ethnic printed fabric of a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country or countries that is certified as such by the competent authority of such beneficiary country or countries. For purposes of this section, the President, after consultation with the beneficiary sub-Saharan African country or countries concerned, shall determine which, if any, particular textile and apparel goods of the country (or countries) shall be treated as being handloomed, handmade, or folklore articles or an ethnic printed fabric.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR ETHNIC PRINTED FABRIC.—Ethnic printed fabrics qualified under this paragraph are—

“(i) fabrics containing a selvedge on both edges, having a width of less than 50 inches, classifiable under subheading 5208.52.30 or 5208.52.40 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States;

“(ii) of the type that contains designs, symbols, and other characteristics of African prints—

“(I) normally produced for and sold on the indigenous African market; and

“(II) normally sold in Africa by the piece as opposed to being tailored into garments before being sold in indigenous African markets;

“(iii) printed, including waxed, in one or more eligible beneficiary sub-Saharan countries; and

“(iv) fabrics formed in the United States, from yarns formed in the United States, or from fabric formed in one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African country from yarn originating in either the United States or one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.”.

(d) REGIONAL AND U.S. SOURCES.—Section 112(b)(7) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(7)) is amended by inserting “or former beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries” after “and one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries” each place it appears.

(e) SPECIAL RULES.—

(1) CERTAIN COMPONENTS.—Section 112(d) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) CERTAIN COMPONENTS.—An article otherwise eligible for preferential treatment under this section will not be ineligible for such treatment because the article contains—

“(A) any collars or cuffs (cut or knit-to-shape),

“(B) drawstrings,

“(C) shoulder pads or other padding,

“(D) waistbands,

“(E) belt attached to the article,

“(F) straps containing elastic, or

“(G) elbow patches,

that do not meet the requirements set forth in subsection (b), regardless of the country of origin of the item referred to in the applicable subparagraph of this paragraph.”.

(2) DE MINIMIS RULE.—Section 112(d)(2) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(d)(2)) is amended—

(A) by inserting “or former beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries” after “countries”;

and

(B) by striking “7 percent” and inserting “10 percent”.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—Section 112(e) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) FORMER SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY.—The term ‘former sub-Saharan African country’ means a country that, after being designated as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under this Act, ceased to be designated as such a beneficiary sub-Saharan country by reason of its entering into a free trade agreement with the United States.”.

SEC. 8. ENTRIES OF CERTAIN APPAREL ARTICLES PURSUANT TO THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 514 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1514) or any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Treasury shall liquidate or reliquidate as free of duty and free of any quantitative restrictions, limitations, or consultation levels entries of articles described in subsection (d) made on or after October 1, 2000, and before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REQUESTS.—Liquidation or reliquidation may be made under subsection (a) with respect to an entry described in subsection (d) only if a request therefor is filed with the Secretary of the Treasury within 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and the request contains sufficient information to enable the Secretary to locate the entry or reconstruct the entry if it cannot be located.

(c) PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS OWED.—Any amounts owed by the United States pursuant to the liquidation or reliquidation of any entry under subsection (a) shall be paid not later than 180 days after the date of such liquidation or reliquidation.

(d) ENTRIES.—The entries referred to in subsection (a) are entries of apparel articles that meet the requirements of section 112(b) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, as amended by section 3108 of the Trade Act of 2002 and this Act.

SEC. 9. DEVELOPMENT STUDY AND CAPACITY BUILDING.

(a) REPORTS.—The President shall, by not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, conduct a study on each eligible sub-Saharan African country, that—

(1) identifies sectors of the economy of that country with the greatest potential for growth, including through export sales;

(2) identifies barriers, both domestically and internationally, that are impeding growth in such sectors; and

(3) makes recommendations on how the United States Government and the private sector can provide technical assistance to that country to assist in dismantling such barriers and in promoting investment in such sectors.

(b) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The President shall disseminate information in each study conducted under subsection (a) to the appropriate United States agencies for the purpose of implementing recommendations on the provision of technical assistance and in identifying opportunities for United States investors, businesses, and farmers.

SEC. 10. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT INCREASING TRADE CAPACITY AND ECOTOURISM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Ecotourism, which consists of—

(A) responsible and sustainable travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and any accompanying cultural features, both past and present) and animals, including species that are rare or endangered,

(B) promotion of conservation and provision for beneficial involvement of local populations, and

(C) visitation designed to have low negative impact upon the environment,

is expected to expand 30 percent globally over the next decade.

(2) Ecotourism will increase trade capacity by sustaining otherwise unsustainable infrastructure, such as road, port, water, energy, and telecommunication development.

(3) According to the United States Department of State and the United Nations Environment Programme, sustainable tourism, such as ecotourism, can be an important part of the economic development of a region, especially a region with natural and cultural protected areas.

(4) Sub-Saharan Africa enjoys an international comparative advantage in ecotourism because it features extensive protected areas that host a variety of ecosystems and traditional cultures that are major attractions for nature-oriented tourism.

(5) National parks and reserves in sub-Saharan Africa should be considered a basis for regional development, involving communities living within and adjacent to them and, given their strong international recognition, provide an advantage in ecotourism marketing and promotion.

(6) Desert areas in sub-Saharan Africa represent complex ecotourism attractions, showcasing natural, geological, and archaeological features, and nomad and other cultures and traditions.

(7) Many natural zones in sub-Saharan Africa cross the political borders of several countries; therefore, transboundary cooperation is fundamental for all types of ecotourism development.

(8) The commercial viability of ecotourism is enhanced when small and medium enterprises, particularly microenterprises, successfully engage with the tourism industry in sub-Saharan Africa.

(9) Adequate capacity building is an essential component of ecotourism development if local communities are to be real stakeholders that can sustain an equitable approach to ecotourism management.

(10) Ecotourism needs to generate local community benefits by utilizing sub-Saharan Africa's natural heritage, parks, wildlife reserves, and other protected areas that can play a significant role in encouraging local economic development by sourcing food and other locally produced resources.

(b) ACTION BY THE PRESIDENT.—The President shall develop and implement policies to—

(1) encourage the development of infrastructure projects that will help to increase trade ca-

capacity and a sustainable ecotourism industry in eligible sub-Saharan African countries;

(2) encourage and facilitate transboundary cooperation among sub-Saharan African countries in order to facilitate trade;

(3) encourage the provision of technical assistance to eligible sub-Saharan African countries to establish and sustain adequate trade capacity development; and

(4) encourage micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises in eligible sub-Saharan African countries to participate in the ecotourism industry.

SEC. 11. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY, AGRICULTURE, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) In order to increase exports from, and trade among, eligible sub-Saharan African countries, transportation systems in those countries must be improved to increase transport efficiencies and lower transport costs.

(2) Vibrant economic growth requires a developed telecommunication and energy infrastructure.

(3) Sub-Saharan Africa is rich in exportable agricultural goods, but development of this industry remains stymied because of an underdeveloped infrastructure.

(b) ACTION BY THE PRESIDENT.—In order to enhance trade with Africa and to bring the benefits of trade to African countries, the President shall develop and implement policies to encourage investment in eligible sub-Saharan African countries, particularly with respect to the following:

(1) Infrastructure projects that support, in particular, development of land transport road and railroad networks and ports, and the continued upgrading and liberalization of the energy and telecommunications sectors.

(2) The establishment and expansion of modern information and communication technologies and practices to improve the ability of citizens to research and disseminate information relating to, among other things, the economy, education, trade, health, agriculture, the environment, and the media.

(3) Agriculture, particularly in processing and capacity enhancement.

SEC. 12. FACILITATION OF TRANSPORTATION.

In order to facilitate and increase trade flows between eligible sub-Saharan African countries and the United States, the President shall foster improved port-to-port and airport-to-airport relationships. These relationships should facilitate—

(1) increased coordination between customs services at ports and airports in the United States and such countries in order to reduce time in transit;

(2) interaction between customs and technical staff from ports and airports in the United States and such countries in order to increase efficiency and safety procedures and protocols relating to trade;

(3) coordination between chambers of commerce, freight forwarders, customs brokers, and others involved in consolidating and moving freight; and

(4) trade through air service between airports in the United States and such countries by increasing frequency and capacity.

SEC. 13. AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF COUNTRIES.—The President shall identify not fewer than 10 eligible sub-Saharan African countries as having the greatest potential to increase marketable exports of agricultural products to the United States and the greatest need for technical assistance, particularly with respect to pest risk assessments and complying with sanitary and phytosanitary rules of the United States.

(b) PERSONNEL.—The President shall assign at least 20 full-time personnel for the purpose of

providing assistance to the countries identified under subsection (a) to ensure that exports of agricultural products from those countries meet the requirements of United States law.

SEC. 14. TRADE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AFRICA.

The President shall convene the trade advisory committee on Africa established by Executive Order 11846 of March 27, 1975, under section 135(c) of the Trade Act of 1974, in order to facilitate the goals and objectives of the African Growth and Opportunity Act and this Act, and to maintain ongoing discussions with African trade and agriculture ministries and private sector organizations on issues of mutual concern, including regional and international trade concerns and World Trade Organization issues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4103, the AGOA Acceleration Act, was ordered favorably reported by the Committee on Ways and Means and was amended by a voice vote on May 5. Once again this bill provides the means for African countries to develop a more prosperous economic environment, a well-grounded rule of law, and efficient and acceptable government practices. I am very pleased that, as in the past, this bill has garnered broad support. Especially I would like to reference the ranking member of the committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL); the chairman, Subcommittee on Trade, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE); the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN); and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), who has been one of the Committee on Ways and Means' leading advocates for additional assistance and trade to Africa.

□ 1430

I am also pleased to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) of the Committee on International Relations and the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) of that committee for the courtesies they extended to us in getting this bill to the floor. The Committee on International Relations indicated there were two provisions in this bill that were under the jurisdiction of the committee. In working with the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE), I am pleased to indicate that in expediting consideration of the bill, the chairman graciously agreed to forego consideration by that committee, notwithstanding the jurisdiction of that committee, and to exchange letters. And I would include the letters in the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, there is an urgent need for this bill. A provision allowing the poorest African countries to use third-country fabric and apparel production will expire at the end of September if we do nothing. My plea, I guess, is to a certain extent hopefully heard on the other side of the Capitol by the other body. This bill would extend the provi-

sion subject to a cap for 3 years and phase it out in the final year, a pragmatic approach that balances the needs of the African countries while assuring the U.S. industry is not threatened and can even be helped through the development of partnerships, especially in the area of raw materials.

Our bill does not merely extend these benefits. It accelerates Africa's utilization of the original AGOA benefits by expanding African capacity and infrastructure to attract investment in regional fabric production so that Africa can hope to compete in a post-quota world.

One of the best ways the Africans can make themselves competitive is to work with us to achieve trade liberalization in the World Trade Organization. Such liberalization will benefit Africa enormously by reducing the duties it must pay and by facilitating trade. In addition, as long as they are comprehensive, I support ongoing free trade negotiations with the Southern African Customs Union, which will help to deepen and make permanent existing AGOA benefits for Africans in Africa. At the same time, we expect meaningful access to the markets of these African countries for U.S. goods and services in an open trading arrangement.

I believe helping Africa through trade will contribute to more fundamental improvements in governance and of course the overall quality of life in Africa. Critical benefits for our African partners will expire soon if Congress does not take immediate action.

Mr. Speaker, this was delayed a week because of the circumstances surrounding last week. We need to move forward with this legislation. My fervent hope is that with the House acting today in the manner in which I believe we will act, that is, overwhelming bipartisan support, that we can focus the attention of the other body that this is a measure that needs to move expeditiously through both bodies so that we can provide this kind of accelerated help to Sub-Saharan Africa, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4103.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2004.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE, Chairman,
Committee on International Relations
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HYDE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4103, the "AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004."

As you have noted, the Committee on Ways and Means ordered favorably reported, as amended, H.R. 4103, the "AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004," on Wednesday, May 5, 2004. I appreciate your agreement to expedite the passage of this legislation although it contains two provisions within your Committee's jurisdiction. I acknowledge your decision to forego further action on the bill is based on the understanding that it will not prejudice the Committee on International Relations with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives or the appointment of conferees on this or similar legislation.

Our committees have long collaborated on this important initiative, and I am very

pleased we are continuing that cooperation. Your leadership on African issues is critical to the success of this bill and the AGOA program. I appreciate your helping us to move this legislation quickly to the floor.

Finally, I will include the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, May 19, 2004.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS, Chairman,
Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I am writing concerning H.R. 4103, the "AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004," which was ordered favorably reported, as amended, by the Committee on Ways and Means on Wednesday, May 5, 2004.

As you know, the Committee on International Relations has jurisdiction over matters concerning relations of the United States with foreign nations generally. Sections 10 and 13 of the bill involve U.S. efforts to provide assistance to certain African nations and thus fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on International Relations. However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4103, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. I regret that the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), who has been a lead sponsor for many years, and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) cannot be here, that there was not able to be worked out accommodations so that they and others who have worked together on a bipartisan bill could be present.

When I talk about the efforts of these gentlemen on a bipartisan basis, I really mean it. The bill was signed originally into law in 2000. It was after years of work and years when it was not at all clear that there could be an agreement regarding trade with African nations. So let me proceed, if I might; and my hope remains that others will still be able to make it. I think under the circumstances, it is going to be exceedingly difficult for them to participate, and I want to express again my regret.

The history of this bill, as I mentioned, is one of effort over the years. And if one looks at what has happened since then, I think one will come to

this conclusion: that this has been a useful endeavor, that we needed to open up our relationships with African nations; that we needed to do so on many bases, economic trade being one but an important one, and that there had been for a long time an ignoring of the importance of our relationship with African nations.

I think the last few years have shown that this was an important idea. In terms of our economic relationships, there has been an improvement. There has been a greater flow back and forth. And in trade issues it is important to look at the flow both ways, and in this case there has been an increased amount of activity both from here to Africa and from African nations back to the United States in the billions of dollars.

So this has not been a cure-all, and no one would pretend that it has been or really could be. This has not brought an absolutely new day within African nations or in our relationship. But it has helped; and as a result, a number of countries in Africa have found their exports to the U.S. increasing, and I think that has fortified activities within those countries. And I think there has been mutual benefit. No one should think in trade it is always win-win on all sides. There are impacts both positive and negative; but I think if we look over the general trend, AGOA has been an important step in the right direction.

If we do not pass this legislation, what would happen is that all of a sudden this experiment, this endeavor, this step forward in our relationship would cease. It would mean in the important area of apparel and textiles that African nations would be at a more serious disadvantage with other countries than they might otherwise be. And I think when we look at the overall picture, that would be bad for Africa; and that would be bad for the United States. The quotas come off on apparel and textiles at the end of this year. We need to get ready for that event. I think it is important that we continue this relationship with African countries.

So I urge support for this. It is not wise or prudent for us in this country after these years of AGOA to say that it should end. It is not wise after these years of increasing relationships economically that we say essentially we are turning our back. Again, this is only one factor in relationship to Africa and to African countries. It is only one factor in building up the ties between our two continents that are so important now and for the future. But it has on balance been, I think, an important building block, and I do not think it is wise at all to remove it at this point, and that is what is threatened here.

So I urge support for this. I do so on behalf of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL). I do so on behalf of the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), who also could not be

here quite yet, and on behalf of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON). And while I do not speak for those on the other side, I do want to say to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and others who have worked so hard on this that I think it is important that we continue this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the chairman of the Africa Subcommittee of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, as an original sponsor of this legislation, I have welcomed working with the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), ranking member; the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT); the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE); the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), and other Members from both sides of the aisle who have been advancing the AGOA program for years now.

Since becoming chairman of the Africa Subcommittee 7 years ago, one of our top priorities has been working to see that Africa does not fall off the edge of the world's economic map; and, frankly, Africa is teetering on that edge. Fortunately, though, AGOA has been a lifeline for Africa to the global economy.

Today, 3 years into the AGOA program, we know that it has worked. Many of us that have worked on this legislation, of course, wish that more African countries and more African industries were taking advantage of AGOA, and we wish they particularly would take advantage of AGOA in agriculture. That is why this legislation includes trade capacity-building provisions, but in a few short years AGOA has managed to draw hundreds of millions of dollars of foreign investment to the continent, creating hundreds of thousands of desperately needed jobs. This makes AGOA the most effective of our development programs for Africa that I am aware of.

Several Members, in fact, have had the opportunity to visit these apparel plants as we have traveled to Africa to see this encouraging development firsthand. Africans are meeting world-class standards for manufactured goods. This makes AGOA a big morale boost for many African countries. AGOA has also encouraged difficult economic reforms as African countries have strived to maintain their eligibility for AGOA.

AGOA has also bolstered our political relations with many African governments. Few African officials that I have met with have not expressed their support and appreciation for AGOA. They almost always begin the meeting by explaining how it has brought economic reform to their country and increased trade with the United States.

This is important diplomatic capital that our country has gained through AGOA.

The African continent, frankly, is at a crossroads. The vision many of us have is of an Africa that joins the world economy, the vision that we have had of working for an increasingly stable and democratic Africa that is combating HIV/AIDS and exporting and importing more goods and services, including from America. That is the vision that we share, I think, on this floor.

The other very different path Africa could get stuck on leads to even greater poverty and greater hunger and conflict and, frankly, greater disease and environmental degradation. It is unclear which way Africa is headed. Challenges on the continent are immense. But what is quite clear is that our growing security and economic interests on the continent would suffer greatly should Africa find itself on the downward path.

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If the U.S. Congress fails to pass this AGOA legislation before the third country fabric provisions expire in September, as we have heard today, if we fail to extend it for 3 years, we will be undoing much of the good that AGOA has done. Greater competition from China and other countries is coming soon, as apparel trading rules are set to change. Unless we act, this competition will surely wipe out much of Africa's young apparel industry and many African jobs that AGOA has created, and, frankly, it will wipe out much African hope. Already apparel orders for Africa are being canceled because of the uncertainty over Congress' action. We must act. Our credibility as a Nation that takes an interest in the world's poorest countries is on the line. Let us act and do our part to direct Africa away from a path of despair.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4103. I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the other Members that have worked with the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) to support this legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his kindness of yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, regretfully, I rise to oppose H.R. 4103, the Africa Growth and Opportunity Acceleration Act of 2004. I am deeply concerned by the fact that this bill only deepens the discriminatory U.S. trade policies towards sub-Saharan African nations created by the original 2000 act, Public Law 106-200. It is indefensible, Mr. Speaker, that the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act has been and remains the only U.S. trade program under which countries must be annually certified as meeting an extensive list of unilateral, and, frankly,

counterproductive conditions before being granted benefits.

Other U.S. preferential trade programs with Andean countries, Caribbean and Central American nations contain a more limited set of conditions and nations are considered eligible throughout the term of the program unless action is taken to petition them out. The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act sets a double standard for Africa.

Some of the most outrageous conditional adversities of H.R. 4103 include, first, sub-Saharan African countries must pursue policies that are deemed to be in line with U.S. national security and foreign policy interests, even if those interests run contrary to U.S. national security or foreign policy interests in the interest of domestic security within their own nations. It does not mean that they are against U.S. national security interests, it simply means they have their own national security interests that must be concerned and paramount for their governments.

Second, a further undermining of sovereignty by insisting on liberalization and privatization policies, such as water privatization. Now, imagine that; the privatization of water in sub-Saharan Africa, where increasingly there are a number of droughts. Who would come up with the idea that privatization policies, such as water privatization, should be a priority in H.R. 4103? But it is in this legislation. The removal of state controls on foreign investments, price controls and subsidies.

Third, the unilateral requirement that U.S. investors doing business in African Growth and Opportunity countries must be granted national investor status.

Fourth, countries must provide full legal protection and enforcement for intellectual property rights, including the private ownership of African seeds and animal genetic materials.

H.R. 4103 ignores the most serious existing problems of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, which I opposed in 2000. I might add, Mr. Speaker, I was one of a handful of members of the Congressional Black Caucus that opposed the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act for these reasons. I might add that an overwhelming number of members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON) and others, are supportive of AGOA.

This bill, however, continues to impose upon African nations a set of policies that have been proven to undermine development, but benefit U.S. multinational corporations and foreign investors, in exchange for meager market access benefits.

This bill in 2000 was sold to the American people as trade, not aid; a helping hand, but not a handout. But by eliminating these conditionalities

and the annual review, I am convinced this is the only way to ensure equal treatment for our African trading partners, as we have sought to create equal treatment for Andean, Caribbean and Central American nations as well. Why the double standard for Africa? Why the annual recertification of African partners, if in fact we believe that these African nations are our genuine and honest partners?

If we are to attach any conditions to the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act Program, our interests, from my perspective, would far better be served by an insistence on better treatment for factory workers and stronger legal protections for union activities in these countries. If we genuinely expect trade to help lift people out of poverty, we cannot continue to burden these countries with rules and requirements that undermine development and leave workers powerless to fight the exploitation and abuse that is an integral part of the corporate race to the bottom.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully cannot support H.R. 4103.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Michigan for his leadership on trade issues, and I want to echo the words of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) in his opposition to H.R. 4103.

H.R. 4103 represents another lost opportunity in terms of international trade, in terms of our dealings with Africa. We have failed Africa in this body on aid issues, we have failed Africa in this body on trade issues. This lost opportunity of H.R. 4103 is embodied in the fact that we could have lifted up standards for African workers and for American workers and for our trade agreements and trade relations. But what is embodied in H.R. 4103 runs through our entire trade policy.

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) talked about loss of sovereignty in the developing world; that we have through various kinds of programs for all kinds of trade adjustments, all kinds of other issues, what has run through our programs is loss of sovereignty, the push to privatization in these countries. He mentioned privatization of their water system, that we have come in through structural adjustment and other programs, forcing cutting of health benefits, cutting of education benefits. We have lost opportunity in H.R. 4103 to allow and encourage and push in allowing unionization, allowing the ability to bargain collectively and to organize in the developing world.

Instead, we are, as the gentleman said, engaging in a corporate race to the bottom. We have done that with the North American Free Trade Agreement, we have done it with our trade agreements with Singapore and Chile. We did it 4 years ago with the first round of AGOA. We are doing it again today.

Instead, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) introduced 4 years ago what would be a prototype on trade agreements, to lift up standards, to encourage unionization, to have international labor organization standards, to have environmental standards, to have food safety standards, to guarantee sovereignty, to move away from the kinds of privatization and undercutting sovereignty that we have too often done through structural adjustment and other methods in the developing world.

This H.R. 4103, the acceleration of AGOA, only hurts the developing world, only hurts U.S. workers. Ultimately it helps in the corporate race to the bottom, it helps add to corporate coffers, corporate profits. It does nothing for workers in Africa or in the United States.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

I was going to make the point that under AGOA, and there are 37 countries that have qualified for the African Growth and Opportunity Act, this act is supported in fact by all the governments of Africa. We have heard from their diplomatic corps. We have heard that increased trade from Africa as a result of this act, drastically increased trade, has been a win for Africa and has been a win for the United States.

But I did want to clarify one point. There have been no countries that have been dropped from this list because of water issues or questions about privatization of water, and there certainly have been no countries dropped because of intellectual property rights issues.

The one case of a country that was dropped from eligibility for AGOA is the case of Eritrea. In this particular instance, it goes to the issue of human rights, and human rights, because this is a unilateral trade preference granted these governments, there is an expectation that they will conform to worldwide, accepted practices.

Now, this is not just an issue with the United States; this is an issue worldwide. I would just take, for example, the case of Aster Yohannes, who was studying here in the United States. She went back to see her children in Eritrea and was arrested at the airport. Before making that trip, she checked with the ambassador from Eritrea, she was given assurances she could safely go back to her country. She checked with me and I talked with the ambassador, and in writing I was given this assurance. This is not just, as I say, an issue with the United States, these human rights abuses. They are worldwide, because the entire press corps has been arrested in Eritrea, the political opposition has been arrested.

So under these particular circumstances, it is not just the U.S., but the world community, that has launched a campaign to try to have

some reform in Eritrea, and this is why it is not on the list. I thought it would be good to take a moment to explain that, and also explain that it does not go to the issue of national security inside Eritrea, it goes to human rights.

The last point I just wanted to make is that many of these apparel jobs in Africa will otherwise go to China if we do not follow forward and extend AGOA, the provision for third country fabric in AGOA. I think all of the Members here understand how important this particular program of AGOA has been to the continent, and would like to move forward. So I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, very briefly, I am glad the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) described the general structure of AGOA. I think that is sometimes lost. It operates within essentially the GSP system. So there are provisions and there are safeguards, as mentioned, relating to human rights, and the same is true if our country pursues them relating to core labor standards.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will place in the record a statement of administration policy. It starts, "The administration strongly supports House passage of H.R. 4103."

I would say to my colleague from Illinois and my colleague from Ohio, that I do not see on the floor, that this broad-based, bipartisan coalition is always open to having pointed out our inability to be as responsive to Africa as perhaps many would want. One of my responses back would be, notwithstanding all of the things that need to be done, this was a piece of legislation that languished for a long time.

To the degree that we can do better, we always want to focus on doing better. But with the underlying provisions expiring in September, what we need is momentum now, with an understanding that far more needs to be done. This is the start of a positive, cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship with a portion of Africa, here sub-Saharan Africa. It ought not to be the only legislation that we ever consider and that we need to work together to move forward.

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But it is the only legislation available within the time frame prior to the expiration of the current legislation.

So I would tell my friend, the gentleman from Illinois, that I look forward to working with him on additional pieces of legislation, with the understanding that our goal is to be bipartisan and make law. What we cannot do in dealing with Africa is to be partisan and make statements. That has gone on far too long.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the African Growth and Op-

portunity Act, H.R. 4103 and am a co-sponsor of the legislation. The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) authorizes the President to provide duty-free treatment under the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for any article when imported from African countries if the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) have determined that the article is not import sensitive with respect to imports from sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries.

On December 21, 2000, the President extended duty free treatment under GSP to AGOA-eligible countries for more than 1,800 tariff line items in addition to the standard GSP list of approximately 4,600 items available to non-AGOA GSP beneficiary countries. The duty-free treatment for the additional 1,800 products available to AGOA countries only, implemented after an extensive process of public comment and review, include such previously GSP-excluded items as footwear, luggage, handbags, watches, and flatware.

Currently, only a small number of countries receive substantial benefits, and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that do not receive preferences for clothing have yet to see an impact of AGOA on their overall exports.

However, the benefits from exporting clothing under AGOA appear fragile in the face of the removal of quotas in the United States on major suppliers, such as China, at the end of 2004, and the planned removal of the liberal rules of origin that allow for the global sourcing of fabrics from least-cost locations.

While the general business climate has improved since the passage of AGOA, the steady growth in the petroleum and mining sectors probably would have occurred due to other market factors. Also, growth in these sectors produces relatively low direct benefits to Africa's poor. Currently, one third of Africa's population is undernourished and nearly half live on less than \$1 a day. Most of the poor live in rural areas and depend largely on agriculture, which accounts for 35 percent of sub-Saharan Africa's gross domestic product, 40 percent of its exports, and 70 percent of its employment. Expanding AGOA's application to African agriculture would have a significant impact on reducing hunger and poverty, and therefore on improving overall conditions in sub-Saharan Africa. The International Food Policy Research Institute estimated that a 1 percent increase in agricultural productivity would raise the income of six million African people above \$1 per day. A \$1 increase in agricultural production generates about \$2.32 in economic growth. Thus, expanding market access and lowering trade barriers for African agricultural products through AGOA will have the greatest impact, not only on the poorest people in SSA but also on national economies.

AGOA has laid a strong foundation for dialogue and partnership between U.S. and African governments and businesses. It fosters an environment that is stimulating new development and investments in SSA. The annual U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, along with the parallel events sponsored by business and civil society groups, facilitate contacts and strengthen relationships. There is also an increased understanding within Africa of the complexities, challenges and opportunities of economic and political reform, which will enable African busi-

ness to be more competitive in the global economy. Yet all of these accomplishments remain only the first steps toward what many hope will be a much fuller and more mutually beneficial trade and investment engagement between Africa and the United States.

Inclusion of textile products with appropriate labor and U.S. industry input, and a number of high-duty agricultural products would also help to broaden the range of opportunities for African exporters in the U.S. market.

Mr. Speaker, for the reasons above, I support the passage of this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, Africa stands taller and prouder today. From Lesotho, to Nigeria, to Uganda, Sub-Saharan African nations joined together and spoke as one. Their voice was eloquent and urgent, and America listened.

Today, 400 million Africans live on less than a dollar a day. But there is great promise for the future. Today, HIV/AIDS claims millions of lives in Sub-Saharan Africa. But there is hope for the future.

Today, Sub-Saharan Africa looks inward to make the social, political and economic changes that will rekindle its pre-eminence on a great continent.

All that Africa is, all that Africa represents, has inspired and united the political parties in the House of Representatives.

Africa bridged America's political divide with a profound affirmation of its past and a persuasive optimism about its future.

For the first time in a long time, Democrats and Republicans in the People's House did not cross swords.

Instead, we locked arms and reached for something bigger than any one political leader or party.

Today, America spoke as one people—extending our hands, our hearts, ourselves, to the nations of Sub-Saharan Africa.

The winds of change are blowing across the Serengeti, and America has joined the voices of Africa's leaders.

By overwhelming passing AGOA, the House of Representatives has affirmed that Africa's Destiny is within Africa's reach.

The Trade opportunities AGOA provides will continue Sub-Saharan Africa's economic development.

Every new step taken to develop these economies is another stride toward self-sufficiency.

AGOA is a stride toward a better life for millions of African people.

AGOA is a blow to the spread of HIV/AIDS, a pandemic that threatens to rob Africa of its brightest promise—its people.

AGOA will expand trade which in turn will attract new capital and encourage the development of new infrastructure.

Roads bring goods to market and roads will bring visitors to Eco-tourism parks.

The majesty of a lion roaming free in Africa's great nature parks will be Africa's symbol of a great continent awakening.

The nobility, grace and dignity of a great nation distant land is closer to us today.

We should all be proud that the People's House reached across the ocean in friendship and joined Africa on its journey to reach its deserved destiny.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion

offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4103, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4103, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 97) approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 97

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress approves the renewal of the import restrictions contained in section 3(a)(1) of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of this bill, I support extending sanctions on Burma for an additional year within the framework enacted into law last year under the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act.

Mr. Speaker, I generally do not believe in unilateral trade sanctions. They are often emotional responses to atrocious acts and have unintended consequences, oftentimes harming the people that we, in fact, were seeking to assist. For example, the State Department notes that the Burma import restrictions have caused 50,000 to 60,000 workers in Burma to lose their jobs. These people were not narrowly helped by the sanctions.

But, at the same time, the actions of the ruling junta in Burma continue to be unacceptable. I believe sanctions are appropriate if the circumstances are, 1, limited; 2, targeted; 3, reexamined yearly, and if we continuously analyze them to make sure they are not causing more harm than good. We must

also examine the question of harm and good in short term and in long term.

The law passed last year requires the administration to issue a report on whether sanctions have been effective in improving conditions in Burma and furthering U.S. objectives. The State Department, in its first report, states that the sanctions represent "a clear and powerful expression of American opposition to the developments in Burma over the past year." The Department observes that the overall human rights record in Burma has worsened over the past year. While the junta has made some apparently superficial efforts toward democracy with its "road map," it does not appear that Burma is on the road to true, fundamental democratic reform.

The State Department's report, however, also notes that no other country has implemented the same set of economic sanctions as the United States; and the U.S. import ban would be, according to the report, "far more effective" if other countries would do the same.

So, Mr. Speaker, although I support the extension of the sanctions for 1 year, I strongly encourage this administration to pursue a more aggressive multilateral sanctions approach in Burma. That government must be truly isolated. It is vital that the administration work with other countries to reach multilateral sanctions. This effort is key if we are to continue sanctions against Burma.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. I also believe that a more multilateral approach is in order. I also think as we discuss Burma, we should look at the experience that international bodies are having, including the ILO and the inability of the ILO, as it is presently structured, to proceed with any real teeth. I think that emphasizes why the United States, as we put forth and put together trade agreements, should incorporate into these trade agreements provisions that relate to the work, for example, of the ILO and core labor standards.

I support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the distinguished ranking member, and I ask unanimous consent that he control the balance of the time on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Joint Resolution 97, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to express my appreciation to my friend and fellow Californian, (Chairman BILL THOMAS), for his assistance in moving this legislation to the floor so expedi-

tiously, and to my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), for their leadership on Burma and for granting me the privilege of managing this bill today for the Democratic side.

Mr. Speaker, a year ago, the Burmese regime launched a brutal crackdown on Burmese democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of the National League for Democracy. Burma's authoritarian ruler simply could not accept the fact that Aung San Suu Kyi remained enormously popular a dozen years after the government nullified the fair and free elections that she won.

Just 10 months ago, Mr. Speaker, President Bush signed into law my bill imposing comprehensive sanctions on Burma. My legislation was approved by this House overwhelmingly, 418 ayes to 2 noes.

Sadly, the case for a tough approach toward Burma, including import sanctions, is even stronger today than a year ago. Countless National League for Democracy leaders remain behind bars. Aung San Suu Kyi, a woman of extraordinary courage, is locked inside her house and there is little prospect that the Burmese junta will engage in meaningful dialogue with the National League for Democracy and other democratic leaders.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the Burmese regime is currently holding a "national convention" to write a new constitution for Burma. The meeting itself is a complete and utter sham. The Burmese leadership refused to let Aung San Suu Kyi participate, apparently afraid that her eloquent words would convince the delegates to move towards democracy and away from dictatorship.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House is moving forward with this bipartisan initiative to renew Burma import sanctions. Burma's ruling elite, who have a questionable direct financial tie to most enterprises in Burma, must understand that they will be unable to enrich themselves off the American consumer.

To those who argue that the sanctions have not worked, I have two responses. First, when Congress imposed import sanctions on Burma, we fully understood that such measures might take years, if not decades, to bring change to Burma, certainly not 10 months. If 10 months were the standard duration for American import sanctions, South Africans would still be governed by the apartheid regime, and Libya would have developed and deployed nuclear weapons instead of surrendering them to the United States.

Second, the United States must make it a top priority to convince our key allies in Europe and in Asia to adopt import sanctions on the Burmese regime. Unfortunately, the executive branch has made little or no effort to accomplish this important task. If sanctions fail to quickly bring change